

Assembly Bill No. 314

CHAPTER 206

An act to amend Section 12947 of the Water Code, relating to water.

[Approved by Governor August 9, 2003. Filed with
Secretary of State August 11, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 314, Kehoe. Desalination.

Existing law declares that a substantial portion of the future water requirements of this state may be met economically by saline water conversion facilities and that the development and use of those facilities will contribute to the health and safety of the people of the state.

This bill, instead, would declare that it is the policy of the state that desalination projects developed by or for public water entities be given the same opportunities for state assistance and funding as other water supply and reliability projects, and that desalination be consistent with all applicable environmental protection policies in the state.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 12947 of the Water Code is amended to read:

12947. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the growing water needs of the state require the development of cost effective and efficient water supply technologies. Desalination technology is now feasible to help provide significant new water supplies from seawater, brackish water, and reclaimed water. Desalination technology can also provide an effective means of treating some types of contamination in water supplies. Desalination is consistent with both state water supply and efficiency policy goals, and joint state-federal environmental and water policy and principles promoted by the Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program.

(b) It is the policy of this state that desalination projects developed by or for public water entities be given the same opportunities for state assistance and funding as other water supply and reliability projects, and that desalination be consistent with all applicable environmental protection policies in the state.

(c) It is the intention of the Legislature that the department shall undertake to find economic and efficient methods of desalting saline

water so that desalted water may be made available to help meet the growing water requirements of the state.

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